

**South Central Zone Committee Meeting**  
**September 7, 2021**  
**Meeting held virtually via Zoom**

**Meeting Attendees:**

ARKANSAS LMSC: Carie O'Banion, Byron Shefchik

GULF LMSC: Carolyn Boak, Nicole Christensen (Zone Chair), Stacey Eicks,  
Kris Wingenroth, Karlene Denby (taking minutes)

NORTH TEXAS LMSC: Sandy Thatcher, Jacky Yen

OKLAHOMA LMSC: Kirsten Hoffman, Maddie Sibilia

SOUTH TEXAS LMSC: Stacy Abrams, Ed Coates, Susan Ingraham, Kendal Jacobson, Tim Murphy, Diana Triana

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

All LMSCs had submitted a report. Nicole submitted a State of the Zone report.

**Review of May 2021 SCY Zone Championship Meets**

Nicole reported that there were five meets held in five LMSCs between May 8 and May 15, 2021. Planning and coordination of the meets began in October 2020. The total number of entrants in the five competitions constituted the equivalent of a large meet. The LMSC/Zone meets attracted participants who may not have traveled a long distance to a centralized Zone Championship meet. That was a major positive of breaking into five LMSC competitions. Nicole suggested that a similar format could be used in the future in non-championship events to offer a sense of cohesiveness among the LMSCs.

**Bryon Shefchik - Arkansas**

Because the entry fee (\$50) was relatively high for an Arkansas LMSC meet, the meet director used the extra funds to purchase lunch for the swimmers and volunteers. This allowed the attendees the opportunity to socialize. Breaks were taken during the meet to allow swimmers to get adequate rest between events.

**Carie O'Banion - Arkansas**

Carie thought that the meet had higher attendance than most Arkansas LMSC meets.

**Kris Wingenroth – Gulf**

The meet attendees were super-excited to be able to swim and interact with their fellow competitors. The meet facility was adequate for the number of swimmers. Nicole did an excellent job as the meet director.

**Kirsten Hoffman – Oklahoma**

The meet was a great success with 32 swimmers. The meet provided the opportunity for Trident Swim Club to host their first meet. It was a very nice

facility. Trident did not charge the LMSC for pool rental. Kirsten felt that the collaboration with Nicole and the other LMSCs made her feel like she was an integral part of the Zone. She would like the Zone to hold another collaborative meet.

#### Ed Coates – South Texas

The feedback from the meet participants was very positive. Everyone seemed happy to be back in competition and seeing other swimmers. Susan did a fabulous job hosting the meet and ensuring that COVID safety protocols were in place.

#### Susan Ingraham – South Texas

The number of entrants was good for the meet. There was a great vibe on deck. Everyone was so happy to race again. Susan is hopeful that the collaborative format will encourage continued participation from Oklahoma and Arkansas swimmers.

#### Jacky Yen – North Texas

Like everyone else, Jacky reported that the meet was a great experience for all involved. She asked if it's possible in the future to combine the results?

#### Nicole Christensen – Zone Chair

In response to Jacky's inquiry, Nicole reported that the results from the five LMSC meets had been combined and were posted on the South Central Zone website. She further explained that since each meet has to be sanctioned by the LMSC in which the meet is being conducted, that it is not possible to combine the results into a single Zone Championship in the official USMS results.

### **2022 Zone Championship Meets**

To date, there has been only one bid for the 2022 SCY Championship meet and no bids for the 2022 LCM Championship meet. Nicole stressed that if no bid is received for the 2022 LCM meet, that would be three consecutive years with no LCM Championship meet. The LCM Championship is a wonderful opportunity for swimmers to set world records, something that's not possible in SCY meets.

### **Review of WMST Meet Bid for the 2022 SCY Zone Championship Meet**

The meet would be held at the Conroe ISD Natatorium in Shenandoah, TX on April 1-3, 2021. The Zone meet date works well in conjunction with the USMS Spring Nationals to be held in San Antonio about four weeks later (April 28 – May 1, 2021). The WMST meet bid provided to the meeting attendees is not the official meet announcement, which would not be finalized until the meet is sanctioned. **MS for approval of WMST as the Zone meet host and approval of the preliminary meet information. The motion passed unanimously.**

Nicole asked Stacey to move forward to get the meet sanctioned, and have it included in the meet schedule on the USMS website.

### **2020/2021 Zone Expenses**

Nicole paid all of the expenses to get the Zone website set up and running. Nicole proposed that the cost of maintaining the website for 2020/2021 should be split equally between the five active LMSCs. **MS to reimburse Nicole for the 2020/2021 expenses, totaling \$145.85 (\$29.17 per LMSC). The motion passed unanimously.** Nicole will send an invoice for \$29.17 to each LMSC for reimbursement. **MS for future approved Zone expenses to be split equally between the LMSCs within the Zone. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Jesse Coon Award**

The 2019 award was presented to Dotty Bruke (AR) at the May Arkansas LMSC Zone meet and the 2020 award was presented to Kris Wingenroth (GU) at the May Gulf LMSC Zone meet.

Recipient selection and 2019 award presentation were delayed due to the COVID pandemic. For future years, it would be best to keep presenting the award annually. Historically, the award has been presented at the LCM Zone Championship meet. But with the uncertainty surrounding the LCM meet, Nicole suggested that the Zone may want to move the award presentation to the SCY Zone Championship meet. Both Kris and Susan thought this was a good idea since the SCY meet traditionally has much higher attendance than the LCM meet. For 2022, the nomination deadline will be February 1, 2022. That provides time for a committee to select the award recipient from among the nominees and for the personalized award to be made and delivered prior to the Zone meet in early April.

### **Peter Guadagni – USMS President**

Peter briefly entered the meeting to acknowledge and thank the meeting participants for their work within the Zone and in USMS governance.

### **West Texas LMSC**

Ed Coates has been in touch with the current West Texas LMSC chairperson. The LMSC wants to merge with the New Mexico LMSC. As this is a non-legislation year, the move cannot be accomplished this year. As an interim fix, it has been suggested that each registered West Texas Club selected a New Mexico LMSC team to register with for 2022. This should address the problem, except for any unattached swimmers.

### **Arkansas LMSC**

Byron said that the Arkansas LMSC map on the USMS website does not include the Missouri counties that are now part of the LMSC.

### **Zone Bid Packets**

Susan has several suggested revisions for the new Zone Meet bid packet, including that hard copy heat sheets be provided for all meet participants. Since the limited amount of meeting time does not allow for a detailed review of the bid packet, Nicole has asked all meeting attendees to review the proposed bid packet and send suggestions/revisions to Nicole by October 1, 2021. Once all suggestions are received, discussion and a subsequent vote on the final version can commence.

### **Zone Chairman For The Next Two-Year Term**

No one has expressed an interest in running for the office. Nicole is allowed to remain in the position for one more two-year term. **MS for Nicole to serve another term as Zone Chair. The motion passed unanimously.** Nicole advised that someone with significant experience has volunteered to become the vice-chair, and to work closely with Nicole to ensure a smooth transition to becoming chair once Nicole's term expires. The position of vice-chair would also allow for the distribution of tasks, thus making the position of Chair less daunting. **MS to establish the position of Vice-Chair with Kirsten Hoffman serving as vice-chair in this next term. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Living History Interviews**

Ed advised that the History and Archives Committee is setting up best practices on how LMSCs share stories, information, and photos with their membership. The committee will be reaching out the LMSC chairs to discuss information sharing. In preparation for the calls, the committee has been reviewing LMSC websites to see how information is currently being shared. Best practices on information sharing will be developed and provided to the LMSCs.

### **Volunteer Educational Calendar**

Ed advised that the LMSC Development Committee has a calendar available with webinars and educational events. The calendar is populated out for several months. It is a collaborative effort between the Coaches Committee, ALTS Committee, LMSC Development Committee, and, when applicable, USMS.

Maddie added that the calendar page on the USMS website has been reformatted to more easily find the types of educational opportunities available. An LMSC Update webinar starts on October 14. This is more general, and addresses resources for volunteers and how volunteers can get more involved in various aspects of USMS.

### **Zone Meet Calendar**

Nicole is asking all meet directors within the Zone to submit meet and/or open water swim information, including links, to her as soon as it is available for inclusion in the Zone meet calendar on the Zone website.

### **All Time Zone Records**

These records are different than Zone Meet Records. All Time Zone Records are the fastest swims achieved by any member of the South Central Zone, and can be accomplished at any sanctioned meet nationwide.

### **Virtual Vs. In-Person Annual Meeting**

Carolyn stated that, while USMS is doing a good job with the virtual meeting, she has heard from many members who would prefer to return to the in-person meeting. It's been done previously as a masters-only meeting, not as part of a larger convention. Ed said that some meeting items are better handled virtually while other topics are better suited for an in-person format. Byron said that personally the virtual format works much better for him, as work and personal obligations would preclude him from traveling to attend an in-person meeting. USMS is currently considering all options and no decisions have been made yet regarding the 2022 annual meeting. USMS is also looking at holding an in-person volunteer summit in spring 2022.

**MS to adjourn meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.